

171. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 170] A compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria; and

wherein the certain criteria include a criterion of the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, the processor being programmed to flag no call bills,

wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the processor is programmed to flag stranger bills,

wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the processor is programmed to flag suspect bills, and

wherein stranger bills and no call bills are directed to a first set of one or more output receptacles and suspect bills are directed to a second set of one or more output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

184. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 181] A compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria; and

wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and

wherein bills meeting the certain criteria of having their denomination determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles

and wherein no call bills are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

189. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 164] A compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria; and

wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether bills are suspect and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets a criterion of being determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit, a bill being determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

200. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 199] A compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria; and

wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein the discriminating unit further determines whether bills are suspect, and

wherein the processor is also adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets a second criterion of being determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit.

214. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 209] A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including bills of a plurality of denominations, the discriminating unit including at least one detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

means for flagging a bill when the denomination of the bill is not determined by the discriminating unit, wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill whose denomination has not been determined is encountered;

wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have been denominated including bills of a plurality of denominations to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles

wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have not been denominated to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the second set of the output receptacles being different than the first set of the output receptacles receiving bills which have been denominated.

227. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 226] A high-speed, United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated, at least one of the output receptacles being adapted to receive more than one denomination of bills;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet a given one or ones of the criteria; and

wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill meeting or failing to meet at least a given set of the criteria being positioned in one of the output receptacles,

wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and

wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a stranger bill.

234. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 223] A high-speed, United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated, at least one of the output receptacles being adapted to receive more than one denomination of bills;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet a given one or ones of the criteria;

wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill meeting or failing to meet at least a given set of the criteria being positioned in one of the output receptacles, and

wherein the output receptacles include a third receptacle, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to deliver flagged bills to the third receptacle.

235. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 223] A high-speed, United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated, at least one of the output receptacles being adapted to receive more than one denomination of bills;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate in excess of 800 bills per

minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet a given one or ones of the criteria; and

wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill meeting or failing to meet at least a given set of the criteria being positioned in one of the output receptacles, and

wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a stranger bill.

236. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 223] A high-speed, United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated, at least one of the output receptacles being adapted to receive more than one denomination of bills;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed

a flagged bill; wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet a given one or ones of the criteria; and

wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill meeting or failing to meet at least a given set of the criteria being positioned in one of the output receptacles, and

wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

243. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 240] A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle positioned to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles positioned to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism comprising a transport drive motor and transport rollers, the transport mechanism located between the input receptacle and the output receptacles to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit comprising a processor and at least one detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the detector being adapted to generate a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information, the characteristic information output signal being electrically coupled to the processor, the processor being adapted to receive the characteristic information output signal and generate a denomination signal in response thereto;

a flagging device comprising a processor and an encoder linked to the transport mechanism, the encoder being adapted to produce tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills, the processor being adapted to generate a no call signal when the denomination of a bill is not determined by the processor; wherein the flagging

device is adapted to generate a stopping signal in response to the no call signal and wherein the transport drive motor is adapted to stop in response to the stopping signal; and

wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have been denominated to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles, and

wherein the flagging device is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to stop with the bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

244. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 240] A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle positioned to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles positioned to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism comprising a transport drive motor and transport rollers, the transport mechanism located between the input receptacle and the output receptacles to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit comprising a processor and at least one detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the detector being adapted to generate a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information, the characteristic information output signal being electrically coupled to the processor, the processor being adapted to receive the characteristic information output signal and generate a denomination signal in response thereto;

a flagging device comprising a processor and an encoder linked to the transport mechanism, the encoder being adapted to produce tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills, the processor being adapted to generate a no call signal when the denomination of a bill is not determined by the processor; wherein the flagging

device is adapted to generate a stopping signal in response to the no call signal and wherein the transport drive motor is adapted to stop in response to the stopping signal; and

wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have been denominated to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles, and

wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have not been denominated to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

260. (Once Amended) [The currency evaluation device of claim 256] A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in a predetermined manner in response to a determination that a bill meets a stranger bill criterion and in response to a determination that a bill meets a no call bill criterion, and wherein a bill which meets the stranger bill criterion is termed a stranger bill, and wherein a bill which meets the no call bill criterion is termed a no call bill, and

wherein the device is adapted to permit manual removal of a no call or a stranger bill after the transport mechanism has halted.

Please add new claims 262-293 as follows:

-- 262. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the device is adapted to deliver and only one output receptacle is adapted to receive denominated bills of more than one denomination.

263. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill, and means for flagging stranger bills.

264. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 263 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is a suspect bill, and means for flagging suspect bills.

265. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 264 wherein stranger bills and bills whose denomination have not been determined are directed to a first set of one or more output receptacles and suspect bills are directed to a second set of one or more output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

266. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 265 wherein the first set of output receptacles includes at least two output receptacles.

267. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 265 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a stranger bill is delivered to an output receptacle of the first set.

268. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 265 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism not to halt when a stranger bill is delivered to an output receptacle of the first set.

269. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill not being determined by the discriminating unit being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

270. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill not being determined by the discriminating unit being located at an identifiable location within the transport mechanism.

271. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill not being determined by the discriminating unit being located at a predetermined position.

272. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a bill not being determined by the discriminating unit has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

273. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill not being determined by the discriminating unit being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of the second set.

274. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect and a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill and wherein the means for flagging is programmed to flag suspect bills.

275. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 274 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of

one or more of the output receptacles and wherein suspect bills are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

276. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 275 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

277. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 276 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in an output receptacle of the second set.

278. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 277 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of the second set.

279. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 278 wherein bills whose denomination have not been determined by the discriminating unit and the suspect bills are directed to different output receptacles of the second set.

280. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the transport mechanism is adapted to transport bills at a rate of at least 1,000 bills per minute.

281. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the device is adapted to deliver and at least one output receptacle is adapted to receive denominated bills of more than one denomination.

282. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the device is adapted to deliver and only one output receptacle is adapted to receive denominated bills of more than one denomination.

283. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the means for flagging is programmed to flag stranger bills.

284. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 283 wherein stranger bills are directed to a first set of one or more output receptacles and suspect bills are directed to a second set of one or more output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

285. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 284 wherein the first set of output receptacles includes at least two output receptacles.

286. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

287. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a suspect bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport mechanism.

288. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a suspect bill being located at a predetermined position.

289. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the device is adapted to transport suspect bills to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the second set of the output receptacles being different than the first set of the output receptacles receiving bills which have been denominated.